

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-21 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-21. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>CLAIMS</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
I	1-7	Class 131, Subclass 347
II	8-17	Class 131, Subclass 370
III	18-21	Class 131, Subclass 370

Applicants have elected claims 1-7 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper in view of the fact that no serious burden is presented to the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application.

As set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for proper requirement for restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and
2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. A review of the subject matter set forth in claims 1-21 would include a review of both class 131, subclasses 347 and 370. Thus, a different field of search really does not exist with regard to the claims of the present application.

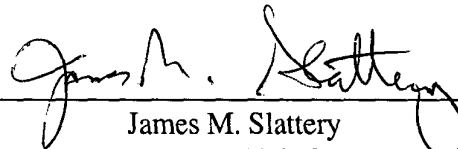
In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 1-7 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in his restriction requirement, Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claim at a later date if they so desire.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380

JMS/slb
(703) 205-8000

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747